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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claim in the application:

Listing of Claims

5 Claim 1. (Currently amended) A filter underdrain
assembly for controlling backwash water flow in a filtration
system having [from] a backwash water inlet, said filter
underdrain assembly comprising a plurality of panel members
forming a grid like underdrain, each panel member having a
10 plurality of apertures, the cross-sectional area of said
apertures in said panel members varying between said panel
members, said apertures of said panel members being located
further away from said backwash water inlet of said
filtration system having a lesser cross-sectional area
15 relative to said cross-sectional area of said apertures of
said panel members closer to said backwash water inlet of
said filtration system.

 Claim 2. (Previously presented) A filter
underdrain assembly as in claim 1 wherein said apertures in
20 said panel members are elongate slots.

 Claim 3. (Previously presented) A filter
underdrain assembly as in claim 2 and further comprising an
air passageway in said panel members.

25 Claim 4. (Previously presented) A filter
underdrain assembly as in claim 3 wherein said panel member
has upper and lower surfaces, said air passageway releasing
air below said upper surface of said panel member.

30 Claim 5. (Previously presented) A filter
underdrain assembly as in claim 3 wherein said air
passageway releases air above said upper surface of said
panel member.

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Claim 6. (Previously presented) A filter underdrain assembly as in claim 3 wherein said air passageway extends below said upper surface of said panel member, said air passageway being formed from interconnected surfaces defining sides and a bottom, said sides having perforations to allow air to escape from said air passageway below said upper surface of said panel member.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) A filter underdrain assembly as in claim 3 wherein said air passageway extends below said upper surface of said panel member, said air passageway being formed from interconnected surfaces defining sides and a bottom, said air passageway having perforations extending through said upper surface of said panel member.

Claim 8. (Withdrawn) A panel member for controlling backwash water flow from underdrain blocks of an underdrain filter assembly, said panel member having a plurality of apertures therein of predetermined cross-sectional area to allow passage of water therethrough, an attachment for mechanically positioning said panel member on said underdrain filter assembly and a sealing member to provide a substantially watertight seal between said panel member and said underdrain filter assembly.

Claim 9. (Withdrawn) A panel member as in claim 8 and further comprising an air passageway and perforations in said air passageway for releasing air under pressure from said air passageway.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) A panel member as in claim 9 wherein said perforations in said air passageway are located below the upper surface of said panel member.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) A panel member as in claim 9 wherein said perforations in said air passageway extend through the upper surface of said panel member.

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Claim 12. (Withdrawn) A panel member as in claim 9 wherein said perforations take the form of elongate slots.

5 Claim 13. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for determining backwash water flow distribution through an underdrain assembly comprising a substantially watertight housing for removable attachment to said underdrain assembly, a seal between the lower end of said housing and said underdrain and an indicator to measure the rise and fall of water within said housing responsive to water introduced to said housing from said underdrain.

15 Claim 14. (Withdrawn) Method of measuring backwash water flow through a filter underdrain assembly comprising the steps of removably attaching at least one housing to said underdrain, initiating a backwash cycle and measuring the rate of water flow from said underdrain into said housing.

20 Claim 15. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 14 wherein said rate of water flow into said housing is measured by the rise of water within said housing.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 15 wherein said rise of water is measured by a float.

25 Claim 17. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 14 wherein said one housing is connected nearer to a water inlet for said underdrain and further comprising a second housing connected to said underdrain at a location relatively further from said water inlet for said underdrain.

30 Claim 18. (Currently amended) Filter underdrain apparatus for controlling backwash water flow maldistribution in a filtration system [from] a backwash water inlet, said filter underdrain apparatus comprising a plurality of panel members assembled adjacent each other to

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form a grid like underdrain, each panel element having multiple punched bridges [apertures] in a surface thereof, each bridge [aperture] defining a pair of slotted water inlet/outlets and wherein the number and/or size of said punched bridges [apertures] are varied from panel member to panel member, said panel members furthest away from said backwash water inlet of said filtration system having a lesser number of bridges or smaller slotted inlet/outlets from said panel members nearer to said backwash water inlet of said filtration system, said panel members being operable to provide a substantially equalised water flow through the underdrain assembly from said panel members.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said multiple punched bridges [apertures] are sized to substantially prevent the passage of filter media therethrough.

Claim 20. (Previously submitted) Apparatus according to claim 19 and further comprising an attachment for attaching each of said panel members to adjacent panel members for securing said panel member to said underdrain assembly.

Claim 21. (Previously submitted) Apparatus according to claim 20 and further comprising a seal for forming a substantially watertight seal between a surface of each of said panel members and said underdrain.

Claim 22. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said panel member comprises a generally rectangular open box structure defined by a pair of parallel side walls, a pair of parallel end walls transverse to said side walls and a generally flat surface member communicating with the side and end walls along one edge thereof.

Claim 23. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 22 and further comprising a perimeter flange of generally "L" shaped cross-section extending perpendicularly

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outward from said side and end walls of said panel member, said perimeter flange having a vertical wall, said vertical wall being substantially parallel to the side and end walls of said panel member.

5 Claim 24. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 23 and further comprising a seal attached to said flat surface of said perimeter flange.

10 Claim 25. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 24 wherein said bridges are punched into said surface of said panel member so as to form a convex bridge in said upper surface of said panel member, said convex bridges being arranged in rows and columns.

15 Claim 26. (Currently amended) Filter underdrain assembly for controlling backwash water flow from a backwash water inlet associated with a filtration system, said filter underdrain assembly comprising a plurality of panel members forming a grid like underdrain, each panel member having a plurality of apertures, the number or cross-sectional area of said apertures varying between said panel members, said
20 panel members located further away from said backwash water inlet of said filtration system having a lesser number or smaller cross-sectional area of said apertures relative to those of said panel members located closer to said backwash water inlet of said filtration system, said panel members
25 being operable to substantially equalize water flow from each of said panel members of said filter underdrain assembly.

30 Claim 27. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain panel member for controlling backwash water flow from underdrain blocks, said panel member having a predetermined number of apertures therein to allow passage of water therethrough, an attachment for mechanically positioning said panel member on said underdrain blocks and a sealing member to provide a substantially watertight seal between said panel member and
35 said underdrain block.

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Claim 28. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain assembly comprising an arch extending longitudinally in said underdrain assembly from a water inlet generally located adjacent one end of said arch, said arch being positioned above said underdrain assembly and allowing water from said water inlet to enter the interior of said arch, said arch having a plurality of perforations extending the length of said arch, said plurality of perforations having larger cross-sectional area nearer said water inlet, said plurality of perforations having smaller cross-sectional area further from said water inlet.

Claim 29. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain assembly as in claim 28 wherein said perforations are elongate slots, the number of elongate slots at said one end of said arch adjacent said water inlet being greater than the number of said elongate slots adjacent said end opposite said one end.

Claim 30. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain assembly as in claim 29 wherein said elongate slots are punched in a plurality of plates individually removable from said arch.

Claim 31. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain assembly as in claim 29 wherein said elongate slots are punched directly into said arch, said slots nearer said water inlet having a greater cross-sectional area than said slots further from said water inlet.

Claim 32. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain assembly as in claim 31 wherein said elongate slots are generally horizontal.

Claim 33. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain assembly as in claim 31 wherein said elongate slots are generally vertical.

Claim 34. (Withdrawn) Filter underdrain

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assembly as in claim 28 and further considering an air passageway in said arch.

5 Claim 35. (Withdrawn) Method of equalizing
backwash water flow in a filter underdrain assembly having a
water inlet and a plurality of blocks located relatively
closer and relatively further from said water inlet, said
10 plurality of blocks having an upper surface and a water
passageway, holes extending between said water passageway
and said upper surface, said method comprising blocking a
predetermined number of said holes in a specific number of
15 said blocks such that the quantity of water flowing from
said upper surface of said blocks located relatively closer
to said water inlet is substantially similar to said
quantity of water flowing from said blocks located
relatively further from said water inlet.

 Claim 36. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 35 and
further comprising positioning panel members over said upper
surface of said blocks.

20 Claim 37. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 36 and
further comprising apertures in said panel members.

 Claim 38. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 37
wherein said apertures are elongate slots.

25 Claim 39. (Withdrawn) Method as in claim 37
wherein the cross-sectional area of all said apertures in
each of said panel members is substantially equal.